GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:965
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
INCIDENTS IN MUMBAI SUBURBAN TRAINS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that more than 20,000 people have been killed in the Mumbai suburban train service over the past five years as reported in the Hindu dated 19 April, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, year-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have taken any steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and to ensure the safety of the passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU)

(a) : Yes, Sir. 20,953 persons have been killed during the last five years i.e. 2003 to 2008 (upto September) in Mumbai Suburban (Central and Western Railways).

(b): Reasons of casualty are due to accidents, while crossing the Railway track, falling down from running trains while travelling on roof / footboard, hitting with electric / signal polls installed nearby tracks, electrocution with Over Head Equipment wire while travelling on roof of trains, committing suicide etc.

(c)&(d): The following measures are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents:-

(i) On platform area of stations iron fencing are provided between Railway tracks at Mumbai Railway suburban stations.

(ii) Repeated announcements are made through public address system and central announcement system discouraging the commuters from crossing the tracks, travelling on footboard / roof top etc.

(iii) Surprise checks are conducted at locations where passenger cross the track avoiding foot over bridge and the offenders of trespassing the railway tracks are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act.

(iv) Joint drives are being conducted time to time to stop roof-travelling and to stop the passengers to travel on foot-board etc.

(e): Does not arise.